

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00007 031401Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 031200Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5121

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL SE VALL TTA 0007

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MT

SUBJ: CIVIL SERVICE R ORGANIZATION

RE: VALLETTA 0002

1. AGREE*ENT IN PRI*CIPLE BETWE N GOM AND TH* CON-FEDERATION OF*MALTA TRADE UNIONS O* THE REORGANIZATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED.

2. MINTOFF'S DEMANDS FOR CIVIL SERVICE REFORM, HIS FREEZE ON PROMOTIONS AND PAYMENT OF BACK WAGES INCREASES, AND SEEMINGLY VINDICTIVE TRANSFERS OF KNOWN NATION-ALIST SUPPORTERS TO UNDESIRABLE POSTS HAVE CAUSED SERIOUS DISCONTENT AMONG THE CIVIL SERVICE AND LED TO OCCASIONAL SHORT-LIVED STRIKES. CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL UNHAPPINESS AND HEALTH PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY AMONG SOME OLDER -LEVEL OFFICIALS, HAVE LED TO EARLY RETIREMENTS AND EXTENDED PERIODS OF SICK LEAVE.

3. THE PRESENT SETTLEMENT CONSOLIDATES STAFFING AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 VALLET 00007 031401Z

PAY LEVELS INTO FEWER GRADES AND PROVIDES A CENTRAL RESERVE POOL TO PROVIDE MINTOFF WITH THE FLEXIBILITY

HE HAS BEEN DEMANDING. IN RETURN, THE FREEZE ON PROMOTIONS WILL BE LIFTED, AND FORTY HOUR WEEK RECENTLY GRANTED TO INDUSTRIALS WILL BE EXTENDED TO NON-INDUSTRIALS, ONE FOURTH OF BACK PAY ARREARS WILL BE PAID IMMEDIATELY WITH REMAINDER PAID BY NEXT APRIL.

4. COMMENT: THIS DEVELOPMENT IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT ALLEVIATES IF NOT ENTIRELY SETTLES SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS AMONG A LARGE NUMBER OF VOTERS. WITH SOME 20,000 CIVIL SERVANTS, GOM IS BY FAR MALTA' LARGEST EMPLOYER. IT ALSO INDICATES THAT LIKELIHOOD THAT MINTOFF WILL CONTINUE ALTHOUGH SOLOWLY, TO EASE OFF ON HIS "BELT-TIGHTENING POLICIES" DURING THE LAST HALF OF HIS TERM IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS, WHICH MUST BE HELD NOVEMBER 1976 AT THE LATEST. AS ONE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT TOLD US, "ANYONE WOULD BE HAPPY WHEN MINTOFF STOPS BEATING HIM OVER THE HEAD."TUCKER

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Message Attributes

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